

Worksession

Agenda Item #	6
Meeting Date	October 4, 2004
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Discussion of FY05 Legislative Agenda
Background	<p>Each year, the Takoma Park City Council identifies the positions the City should take on legislation, or initiatives the City should pursue, at the State, County and Federal levels. The discussion of the city's legislative agenda traditionally occurs early in September in order to meet the State Legislature's local bill deadline and to assist staff in preparing for research and lobbying activities during the legislative session. Also, throughout the year, staff brings new initiatives to the Council's attention as they arise. This year there are already many items on the Montgomery County Council's calendar that may be of interest to Takoma Park.</p> <p>This discussion was originally scheduled for the City Council worksession of September 7. Since several items ran long that evening, and no local item had been identified to submit to the State Legislature by the September 10 local bill deadline, the discussion was postponed. An update on legislative items was provided in a memo to Council on September 20 (attached).</p> <p>For the discussion on October 4th, the following topics have been identified as ones that the Council may wish to take a position on:</p> <p>State</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) More money for the Community Center (how much? if successful, amount would not be known until May, 2005 and funds would not be available until mid-summer) 2) Funding for SHA or other agency for traffic safety improvements or for transit center at Takoma/Langley Crossroads 3) Stricter pedestrian safety legislation (information attached) 4) Anti-retaliation bill for renters in municipalities with housing legislation (information attached) 5) Support of bill allowing municipalities to use opt-out aggregation for electric power (information attached) 6) Support C-Safe funding 7) Protect Purple Line from legislation to disrupt it or its route 8) Protect funding for municipalities (highway fund, Program Open Space, etc.) <p>County</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) More money for the Community Center (how much? if successful, amount would not be known until June, 2005; funds would be available in July) 2) Support Purple Line planning efforts 3) Hospital text amendment (presentation earlier in evening) 4) Revisions to MPDU (information attached)

	<p>5) Structure of County Council—referendum upcoming on whether or not to keep current structure or go to district-only representation</p> <p>Federal</p> <p>1) Funding for Community Center (how much? may not know if successful until October 2005 or later)</p> <p>2) Funding for Police Department technology and evidence processing upgrades</p> <p>3) Support of Purple Line</p>
Policy	The City Council sets policy for the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	Most of the items listed are to gain money for Takoma Park or would have no fiscal impact to the City.
Attachments	Background information on a number of the legislative items
Recommendation	Give direction to staff
Special Consideration	

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Council

FROM: Suzanne Ludlow
Community and Government Liaison

DATE: September 20, 2004

SUBJECT: Update on Legislative Priorities

The City Council was scheduled to discuss the City's FY05 Legislative Agenda at its worksession of September 7. Several items ran long that evening and the legislative agenda discussion is now scheduled for October 4. Since the time of preparation for the September 7 worksession, there is some new information on several items that you may wish to know about before the discussion on October 4.

- Nancy Floreen's bill regarding lead paint in historic preservation properties may not be pursued. Instead, administrative guidance language for the Historic Preservation Commission and its staff may be changed to address the concerns.
- City staff reviewed the slate of bills proposing to modify the County's MPDU (affordable housing units) provisions. At this time it does not appear that the provisions would affect areas within Takoma Park. **A public hearing is scheduled for this Thursday, September 23** and then the provisions will be discussed in the PHED (Planning, Housing and Economic Development) Committee at least through October 29. Since the City Council has not taken a position on these provisions, no arrangements have been made to provide testimony at the public hearing. Staff will monitor the progress of the discussion on these bills, however, to ensure that any changes that could affect Takoma Park will be brought to the Council's attention.
- The County Council public hearing on the Master Plan of Bikeways is Tuesday, **September 28**. Staff will submit testimony supporting the sections of the Master Plan affecting Takoma Park, consistent with past support from the City Council.
- The County Council public hearing on a supplemental appropriation of \$2,650,000 for Montgomery College's King Street Art Center is Tuesday, **October 5**. Generally the City has not testified on these requests. A presentation on the College's Facilities Master Plan to the Takoma Park City Council will take place the previous evening, on October 4. If it is seen as likely that the City should weigh in on the appropriation, we should sign up to testify in advance. Staff believes it is likely that the City would support the development of the King Street Art Center. The one issue that has come to the staff's attention is the plan to also locate the Montgomery College system's computer facilities

in the former Giant Bakery building, thus using space that could be better used for Takoma Park campus facilities. The system-wide computer facilities could be located at any of the campuses and the other campuses have more space and flexibility. It is probably not necessary to mention this at the public hearing on the appropriation since we can address it through other means, but if any Councilmember feels we should sign up to testify, please let me know.

- SHA does have construction funding for improvements to the New Hampshire Ave/University Blvd intersection and for pavement and sign improvements south on New Hampshire Avenue between University Blvd and Eastern Avenue. There is also a good amount of work being done by SHA and the Maryland Transit Administration on possibilities for a bus transit center at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, but money for construction will still need to be found for that project.
- The Legislative Committee of the Maryland Municipal League is likely to recommend three topics for pursuing at the State Legislature this year: restoring municipal resources, public safety communications and interoperability, and electrical aggregation. The MML Fall Conference is scheduled for October 21-23 in Cumberland, Maryland. At that conference the MML's legislative priorities for this coming session will be finalized.

Please contact me if you have any questions before the October 4 City Council worksession discussion.